

**From:** David Hirst  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/9/01 12:55pm  
**Subject:** Some comments....

I can only hope and pray that wiser and more just minds review the ruling! Some comment and further short readings....

From:  
<http://www.macobserver.com/columns/nameofthegame/2001/20011129.shtml>  
(my comments in parenthesis)

Gary: First, you must understand that Microsoft has absolutely committed crimes to enforce their monopoly power. This is why they are willing to settle these class action lawsuits for what appears to be such a lot of money. Microsoft understands that it will have to pay a hefty amount of money, no matter what.

Randy: So, it tries to pay off the trial attorneys with as yet undetermined attorney fees, and dupe the public with promises of computers and software to kids, as opposed to real money to the actual plaintiffs in the case. There is no way that this would ever cost Microsoft even close to \$1 billion. These days it isn't hard to find a "refurbished" computer for less than \$50 bucks.

Randy: A better solution would be to make Microsoft buy \$1 billion (per year for 5 years) worth of competitors' products for these schools. Seems like a reasonable punishment for an illegal monopoly. Nothing would pop more zits on Bill Gates' forehead than having to buy 25,000 iMacs! (or better for five years)

Gary: If nothing else, make Microsoft deposit money into a technology fund for these schools. \$1 billion (per year!) over five years. Then let the schools decide what to spend that money on without any more involvement from Microsoft. It is clear that by proposing this settlement, that Microsoft has learned nothing and is thumbing its nose at the government and the consumer alike.

Making them pay out over five years would allow students to REALLY build a foundation of knowledge and use, while keeping the technology current. It would also be at least a somewhat meaningful punishment for the CRIMES that MS has perpetrated on the American public rather than the soft slaps on the wrist that MS has gotten away with in the past.

Sincerely,  
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